

THE MORNING SUN

"If It's Right We Are For It." Owned by the People of the State of Florida, Edited by CLAUDE L'ENGLE.

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VALEDICTORY

It is always best to deal in seasonable goods, and as this is the season for valedictories, I will have an opportunity to take heart in the regular order of things in writing this, the valedictory of The Morning Sun for the session of 1909.

"To these dear walls" that have sheltered so much of the hopes, desires and ambitions of the representatives of the people, The Morning Sun now bids farewell.

It has done its best, it has run its course, its work is done.

Its feet are shod with the shoon of peace, and its heart pulsates with sympathy, and throbs with kindly feeling for all men.

Its purpose has been to correctly record the things that happened in the Legislative session of 1909, and to discuss measures and men without passion, without prejudice, without bias, without malice.

It has not had to do with anything that came not within the scope and purpose of a journal devoted to the interests of all of the people.

It has taken the record as it was made, and has recorded it as truthfully as human limitations would permit, and in its comment upon things discovered by the public records it has not gone beyond the well-defined and proper limitations of public expression about public matters.

If some persons have been annoyed, or even angered, by expressions that this journal has contained, they have no cause to continue in their displeasures; for I, as its editor, have suffered more

than they have in fulfilling the duty devolving upon me to give free expression to this journal, owned entirely by the people, when such duty carried me into the line of disapproval.

The Morning Sun has been free. Its expressions have been uninfluenced by any man. No one has had the right to say what it should print, or what it should leave out. Not even its editor has been awarded this privilege.

Nothing has been suppressed that the public has had a right to know.

Nothing has been printed but that which it was the duty of a public journal to print, for the benefit of the people who own it.

In closing its columns, The Sun has but one regret, and that is that it was not able to do more for the people, and to serve them better.

With a heart profoundly moved by the signal manifestation of the confidence of the good people of this State who made The Sun possible, I beg leave to express my thanks for this trust.

Never before in the history of journalism has a journal been created and maintained by the free and unrestricted contributions of the citizens. The money which has paid the expenses of the publication of this paper was turned over to me without reserve, without a promise on my part to do this or that, and without a charge on the part of the people who raised it to refrain from doing aught.

I do not know the names of those who contributed to the fund that maintained The Sun. It was one of the conditions I named in accepting its editorship.

I hope that all of them will see these lines, and

BRIEF REVIEW OF WORK OF SESSION

It was a grandstand finish made by the session of 1909. The baseball season is now on us, and as the race-track business has been before us, therefore, no more FITTING and UNDERSTANDABLE expression than this can be used.

Figures of speech, always effective, become doubly so when truth is mixed with metaphor.

By the term "grandstand finish," one is given to understand that it was a good finish, and this it surely was, for the session of 1909 which has closed did more in the last week than it did in all the seven other weeks that preceded this.

For in the last week of the session, the Legislature of 1909 enacted into law.

A bill to purify the ballot, known as the primary bill.

A bill to purify the press, known as the bill compelling newspapers to print the word "advertisement" conspicuously above those articles purporting to be news or editorials, but which have been paid for.

A bill to purify the railroad tax assessment rolls, known as the bill creating a Board of Tax Assessors composed of five men whom will be vested the duty of assessing railroad property in this state.

A bill to reduce the pension roll, which was so large that it made up a burden that was straining the backs of the taxpayers to bear it.

A bill to give the public schools of this State one hundred

[Continued on 2nd page.]

in them will read the gratitude that fills my heart and seeks expression here.

I thank the good people of the State of Florida who have made The Sun possible.

As its editor, I extend to them greetings and farewell.

As one of them, I point out the true philosophy of life, which is contained in these words:

Wait and hope!

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